

## Behavior of Iguana During Rain Storms

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WHILE in Paramaribo, Surinam, during July 1966 I made some observations of the behavior of an iguana (*Iguana iguana*) that seem to be worth recording.

In the yard of our house was a pine tree (*Pinus caribea*), approximately eight inches in diameter at the base and thirty feet tall. On July 15, it began to rain and blow about 2:30 in the afternoon. As soon as the first drops started to fall, a large iguana came to the tree, climbed until it had reached one of the uppermost branches, crawled out to the end which was hardly three-fourths an inch thick, wrapped its fore limbs around the branch, braced its hind feet against tufts of needles and "held on for dear life" while the rain pelted and the tree swayed in the wind. After the storm abated about 5:00 o'clock PM the lizard settled down on the same limb and so far as we know did not move until it began to rouse a little after 10:00 the next morning. It finally made its descent shortly after noon.

After the above observations were made we started to keep more precise records and found that on afternoons in which we had even a light shower the iguana spent the night in the pine, climbing to its perch before sundown, but if there was no shower it spent the night elsewhere. For a period of about a week during which we had no rain the big iguana was not seen although a small one did feed in broad-leaved trees in the yard from time to time.

On July 27, the day before our departure, another heavy storm came up at 3:00 PM and once again the lizard came running across the lawn, climbed to one of the uppermost branches, and hung on while the rain pelted and the tree swayed as before. It stayed in the tree after the storm was over. Since we had to leave at 8:00 AM on the 28th we were not able to note when it finally descended.

These observations are not fully in agreement with those of Swanson (1950) in Panama, where he saw no iguanas in trees during the periods of cool, wet weather, although he added they seem to prefer more open trees when it is raining. It would be interesting to know whether the behavior noted above is

typical or whether it simply represents the idiosyncratic behavior of this individual.

My work in Surinam was supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation GB-3644.

#### LITERATURE CITED

SWANSON, PAUL. 1950. The Iguana *Iguana iguana iguana* (L). Herpetologica, vol. 6, pp. 187-193.

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Quart. Jour. Florida Acad. Sci. 30(2) 1967 (1968)